

Please cancel claim 3.

15. (Amended) The gaming machine of claim 14 wherein the processor includes all other components and functions in order to operate the gaming machine and provides for [the] a main processor.

18. (Amended) A method of promoting the use of gaming machines via the use of computer programmed external visual indicators, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a gaming machine having a programmable external visual indicator including LEDs connected to a processor of the gaming machine;

coordinating the external visual indicator with a first special event of the gaming machine;

programming the processor so that a first customized illumination pattern is provided by the external visual indicator in order to designate the first special event; and

automatically triggering the first customized illumination pattern of the external visual indicator upon the occurrence of the first special event.

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed February 13, 2003, Applicant provides the present amendment and remarks. Applicant has amended claims 1, 15 and 18. Applicant has amended claim 15 in order to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph with respect to lack of antecedent basis. Claims 16 and 17 depend from claim 15 and include the limitations thereof. The amendment to claim 15 overcomes the rejection under Section 112 and applicant respectfully requests that claims 15-17 be allowed.

Claims 1-2, 18-19, 21-22, 24, 31 and 34-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,605,506 to Hoorn et al. (Hoorn). Applicant respectfully transverse this rejection, as Hoorn fails to disclose all of the elements of the claimed invention.

For example, claim 1 of the present invention includes an external visual indicator mounted to a gaming machine and including multiple LEDs providing a color display including illumination of multiple colors. A programmed processor provides for the control of the color display of the external visual indicator. The processor is part of the gaming machine. Hoorn fails to disclose all of these elements.

For example, Hoorn fails to disclose a visual indicator including multiple LEDs. Hoorn also fails to disclose a processor of the gaming machine providing for control of the color display of the external visual indicator.

Hoorn discloses a light source 186. However, there is no disclosure in Hoorn of an LED. Further, Hoorn only discloses a host computer 8 that is remote from the gaming machine. There is no disclosure in Hoorn of a processor that is part of the gaming machine providing for control of the color display of the external visual indicator. Therefore, as all of the elements of the claimed invention are not disclosed in Hoorn and the rejection under §102 is improper.

Claims 3-17, 20, 23, 32-33, 36 and 36-46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoorn as applied to claims 1-2, 18-19, 21-22, 24, 31 and 34-35 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,265,984 to Molinaroli (Mol). Applicant respectfully transgresses this rejection because it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in view of Mol and Hoorn to arrive at Applicant's claimed invention.

As discussed above, claim 1 of Applicant's invention requires an external visual indicator mounted to the gaming machine and including multiple LEDs providing a color display including illumination of multiple colors. The claimed invention also includes a programmed processor providing for the control of the color display of the external visual indicator. As discussed above, Hoorn fails to teach or suggest all of these elements. As well, it would not have

been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in view of Mol to arrive at this claimed invention either.

Mol discloses a display device such as a traffic light baton, a circular ceiling mounted display, a hand-held display device, a keychain display device, a pen display device, a wristwatch display device, a display device of a bicycle, a vehicle window display device, a fan display device, a Christmas tree-shaped display device, a plug-in globe-shaped display device, a net fabric style baseball-style cap with a display device, a shoe display device, a hand-held display device mounted to a mechanical arm, a yo-yo display device, and a projection display device having three axes. Mol fails to teach or suggest the use of a display device for a gaming machine. Further, Mol fails to teach or suggest a display device for use as a candle of a gaming machine. Therefore, there is no suggestion to combine the teachings of Mol with Hoorn. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine Mol with Hoorn and, therefore, would not have arrived at an invention of a gaming machine having a programmed processor providing for the control of the color display of the external visual indicator including multiple LEDs. These limitations are present in independent claims 1, 18 and 40.

Further, neither Hoorn or Mol individually or in combination teach or suggest access to a user input panel to choose a combination of lights and colors to be displayed so that an electrical signal is sent to the processor which signals the I/O interface which signals the coding and buffer system which signals the PWM in order to control the current driver in order to control the LEDs according to the combination chosen by the user of claim 14. Further, Hoorn and Mol fail to teach or suggest a gaming machine having a signal processor connected to a pulse with modulator connector to a current driver that is connected to multiple LEDs mounted in a candle

as claimed in claim 40. Further, Hoorn and Mol fail to teach or suggest a conical parabolic reflector mounted to a printed circuit board having LEDs mounted thereon that reflect light off from the reflector and out of the candle as claimed in claim 44. Further, Hoorn and Mol fail to teach or suggest multiple translucent rods mounted within the candle corresponding to LEDs mounted therein in order to illuminate the rods. Further, Mol and Hoorn fail to teach or suggest a candle that includes translucent discs mounted within the candle adjacent to corresponding LEDs in order to illuminate the disc of claim 46. All of the other dependent claims which depend from claims 1, 18 and 40 include all the limitations of the dependent claims and are also not taught or suggested by Hoorn in view of Mol. Therefore, the rejection under §103(a) is improper and applicant respectfully requests that all claims be allowed.

If the examiner has further questions or would like to discuss the application, please contact counsel for applicant at the information listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Registered Attorney for Applicant
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